

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT THE SARVAM, SRI AUROBINDO SOCIETY, AT SATYAM  
CAMPUS, SARVAM SIVAN KOIL STREET, VILLUPURAM DISTRICT  
18.05.2018**

ANAIVARUKKUM KAALAI VANAKKAM

Thiru. Vijay Poddar

Dr. Subramanian

Dr. Palanithurai

Thiru. Senthil Kumar

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am very happy to be here with all of you at the function being organized for summer camp activities under the SARVAM Integral Village project.

Swami Vivekananda defined education to be the manifestation of the perfection already in man. He elaborated on how all the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help themselves. He therefore exhorted that our work should be mainly educational both morally and intellectually. The summer camp activities for youth focused on integral education serve as the step in the right direction.

The talent and energy in youth is like a river gushing forth with force and fury. If left unchannelised the waters get spread out over large areas with no useful result. Channelising the energies and purposefully using their talent is like constructing a set of canals which lead water for irrigating the locations where the cultivated areas lie.

The Sri Aurobindo Rural and Village Action & Movement (SARVAM) project is an initiative aimed at Integral Development of villages. It's aim is to create an integral model which is inclusive, sustainable, scalable and replicable.

Starting with two villages in Poothurai and Perambai, in the Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu, at the borders of Puducherry, SARVAM has now extended its operations to 18 villages with 20,000 people mostly in and around Puducherry and Villupuram.

SARVAM, in its very essence, is an inclusive endeavour reaching out to each and every individual in the community irrespective of his or her caste, religion, sex, age, economic and social status.

I am informed that activities such as evening tuition classes, scholarship for higher education programmes meant for empowerment of women, medical camps and livelihood activities are being pursued under the SARVAM project.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for me that all these activities are being organized under the auspices of the Sri Aurobindo Society. The Sri Aurobindo Society is an international not for profit NGO, which has been recognized by the Government of India as a Charitable Organization, as a Research Institute, and as an Institution of Importance throughout India.

The name of Sri Aurobindo stirs up memories of an intellectual born in a noble family who rose like a lion against the oppressive British rule of the times. He spent the later part of his life in Pondicherry engrossed in deep philosophical thought. He developed a method of spiritual practice called Integral Yoga. The central theme of his vision was the evolution of human life into a life divine. He believed in a spiritual realization that not only liberated man but transformed his nature, enabling a divine life on earth.

The concepts of Integral Yoga and Synthesis of Yoga which Sri Aurobindo propounded form the bedrock for the Aurobindo Ashram and the Sri Aurobindo Society. It comes as no surprise therefore that the SARVAM project also revolves around the concept of integral education for its summer camp activities.

The concept of environmental sustainability is being emphasized at these summer camp activities.

Our ancestors knew the practice of sustainable development. That is the reason India has had a continuing civilization for more than 5000 years.

The agricultural practices were sustainable. The needs of the people were limited and contentment was the principle that was admired, appreciated and inculcated in young minds in schools and Gurukulams. The Tamil proverb “pothumendra maname pon seyyum marundhu” bears ample testimony to this.

Nature is like a Mother who provides abundant resources generously to her children. But it is important that this generosity is not abused. That is why Mahatma Gandhi mentioned that Nature has enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed. Such words of wisdom were expressions of the spirituality that characterised the Mahatma.

Spirituality is based on tolerance. Spirituality is based on acceptance of other people’s ideas. Spirituality is based on moving society towards a goal that goes beyond the self.

The fact that institutions based on spirituality are gaining prominence in training and education gives me hope that the road ahead is going to be bright and sunny. Empowerment of people for achieving economic prosperity is bound to succeed particularly when it has spirituality as its foundation and culture as its embellishment. I am sure that the SARVAM project will be a roaring success and serve as a model for development for the whole of India.

I wish the Sri Aurobindo Society success in all its endeavours and thank the organizers for having given me the opportunity to see for myself the various innovations that have been put into practice. My best wishes and greetings to all the 18 villages working with the Sri Aurobindo Society towards greater economic development and prosperity.

Nandri      Vanakkam

Jai    Hind